

Transportation *Digest*

Spring, 2002

Volume 10 Number 4

Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter

Construction Career Days

Activities for RI students held at Midstate

The second annual Construction Career Days were held in late April, sponsored by Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The two-day event was held at RIDOT's Midstate Maintenance facility in Coventry for students wishing to gain a hands-on introduction to the construction industry. Contractors, skilled trade unions, and industry associations were on hand to demonstrate activities and directions in diverse and exciting field.

"With expert supervision, students were able to operate heavy equipment including backhoes, excavators, and bulldozers," said William D. Ankner, Ph.D., RIDOT's director. "Skilled tradespeople assist them in crafts such as brick laying, welding, and electrical installation."

(See Construction Career Days, page 3)



EVEN JACKHAMMERS were tried out by high school students who visited Construction Career Days, held at the Midstate Maintenance Facility in Coventry in late April.

Statewide Seatbelt Buckle-Up Campaign *Click It or Ticket* arrives in Rhode Island

Communities throughout Rhode Island conducted a high-visibility seatbelt enforcement campaign during the weeks of May 13th and May 20th. The campaign, which was publicized through the media, is called "Click It or Ticket," and is part of a nationwide event.

The effort drives home the fact that by using a seatbelt while riding in a vehicle, we can reduce the risk of death and serious injury by up to 90%. Conversely, if a motorist is stopped for a motor vehicle violation and is not wearing a seat belt, violators can expect to receive a \$50 ticket.

Simply put, seatbelts save lives. In 1999, restraints saved the lives of an estimated 11,197 motor vehicle occupants over the age of 4. However that same year, nearly 19,000 unbelted drivers and passengers died in traffic crashes nationally. More than 3,000 of them were children. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading

(See Click It or Ticket, page 6)



Click It or Ticket
campaign logo

Asian Longhorned Beetle could reach Rhode Island this year

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) has been discovered attacking trees in the United States, and could reach Rhode Island this year. Tunneling by beetle larvae girdles tree stems and branches. Repeated attacks lead to dieback of the tree crown and, eventually, death of the tree. The beetle probably travelled to the U.S. inside solid wood packing material from China. It has been intercepted at ports and found in warehouses through the U.S.

Sheleen Clarke, a Landscape Architect at RIDOT's Maintenance Division's Environmental Unit, said the devastation the beetle can have on forests and urban trees would be extensive. She said it has cost the New York State over \$20 million to try to contain and eliminate the beetle. She added, "It can devastate and kill many beautiful hardwood trees such as Maples, Willows, Horse Chestnut, American Elm, Birches, Poplars, Alders, and Ash.

"RIDOT has spent many hundreds of thousands of dollars to plant our streets with many of these trees. If we are proactive, rather than reactive we can get a lot of people in the Department watching for this beetle to detect an outbreak so we can catch it early and eradicate it before a lot of devastation occurs."

(See Asian Longhorned Beetle, page 7)

Recycle this issue - pass it on!

RIDOT's 100th birthday, spring events inspire reflection

On April 3, 2002 we celebrated the Rhode Island Department of Transportation's 100th Birthday. For the birthday celebration, we were privileged to have a number of distinguished guests attend, including some of RIDOT's former Directors.

One hundred years ago, RIDOT was known as the State Board of Public Roads, and served as a public works department. Creating and building a state road system and a federal interstate were its primary concerns.

Today, our emphasis has shifted to include the management and preservation of our transportation system, the safety of the public, the integration of our system, and the recognition that we are part of the community. We are committed to maintaining a safe and seamless intermodal transportation system.

I am fortunate to be the Director of this fine Department and I am extremely proud of the men and women of RIDOT. Newton observed that his accomplishments were the results of others who went before him; so, too, for RIDOT.

Our former RIDOT directors have made this a department we can all be proud of. They began in 1903 with John H. Edward, followed by Robert B. Treat, John F. Richmond, and Abram L. Atwood, all serving as Chairman of Public Works. In 1935, when Charles F. McElroy came in, the title changed to Director of Public Works. Following him in that title were John V. Keily, Frederick V. Waterman, Daniel J. Ryan, Oresto DiSaia, Philip S. Mancini, Joseph M. Vallone, Angelo A. Marcello, John F. Capaldi, Angelo A. Marcello again, and Morris Chorney. In 1970, the title changed to Director of the Department of Transportation with Francis J. Fazzano. He was followed by Morris Chorney again, Robert J. Rahill, Wendall J. Flanders, Edward W. Wood, Dante E. Boffi, Jr., Joseph Pezza, Herbert F. DeSimone, Matthew J. Gill, Jr., Daniel P. Fanning, Dante E. Boffi, Jr. again, William F. Bundy, and me.

As we celebrate our birthday, we also celebrate 100 years of caring and service to the state of Rhode Island. Some of our employees have been here serving the public for nearly half of that time. They include Mario Marcaccio from MIS/GIS, who has been with us since October 1955; William Riccio from Survey, who started in September 1957, Gilbert Tourgee from Maintenance, who started in May 1958, Walter Ptaszek of Construction who

started in June 1959, and Kenneth Adamo from Materials who started in June 1961.

It's these dedicated people and my colleagues, our former directors, who have helped make RIDOT, in my belief, the best agency in state government. How fortunate I've been to inherit a department that they created.

To celebrate RIDOT's 100th Birthday, two agencies that we frequently work with were generous in providing gifts for every employee in the Department. The Rhode Island Public Works Association provided us with hats proclaiming RIDOT's 100th Birthday, and similarly the Rhode Island Consulting Engineers provided a dark blue mug for every employee. These organizations helped make our birthday into a real party, and we



RIDOT Director William D. Ankner, Ph.D., left, Associate Director for Administration Phillip Kydd, back right, and a number of high school students enjoyed Construction Career Days in late April.

thank them.

This spring we also had two major events for the Department, the NASTO 2002 Annual Meeting and Conference in Newport, and Construction Career Days, held in late April at the Midstate Maintenance Facility in Coventry.

The NASTO Conference involved the efforts of 40 volunteers from RIDOT, and the devoted coordination of Dan DiBisio of Community Affairs. I want to thank all the volunteers, and offer a special thanks to Dan.

At NASTO, members of the five Native American tribes living in our area, the Narragansetts, the Mohegans, the Wampanoags, the Nipmucs, and the Pequots held a ceremony to bless the conference. Narragansett Medicine Man Lloyd Wilcox, offered an invocation, Harry Edmonds (Carole's husband), from the Wampanoags, gave a blessing in Algonquin, and Peter Silva from the Nipmucs, sang a special song. Today, our major roadways follow the trails of the early members of these tribes.

The NASTO luncheon included a ceremony of remembrance for employees of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey who were killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11. Michael Dukakis, Vice-Chairman of the Amtrak Reform Board, former Massachusetts Governor, and former presidential candidate, served as Keynote Speaker.

Here's to the next hundred years for RIDOT!



VOLUNTEERS FROM RIDOT MAINTENANCE: front, left to right, Paul Boudreau, Michael Scallon, Gary Gardiner, Jr., Daniel Gannon; back, left to right, Alan Tarasenko, Sheleen Clarke, Thomas DiFusco, John Larochelle, John Trivisono, Edward Golden, Marjorie Ross, and Timothy Carroll.



CAREER DAY COORDINATOR: Jeff Cathcart, a consultant to the Rhode Island Public Works Association, serves as coordinator of Construction Career Days.



BUILD A WALL: Masons let a high school student try out the trade with some bricks and mortar.

Construction Career Days

(Continued from Page 1)

There is an annual nationwide need for 250,000 employees to fill job openings in the construction industry. This year's two-day event had nearly 1,200 students attending Construction Career Day.

"Students who came to Construction Career Day spent the day learning by doing," said Jeff Cathcart, coordinator of the event. "There's no better way to experience what a typical day is like in the construction industry than getting a little dirt under your fingernails and some concrete on your jeans."



HEAVY EQUIPMENT: A high school student was among many who had the chance to take the controls of earth-moving equipment at Construction Career Days.

Materials assists with successful science project

Joshuah Federico, a 14-year-old ninth grade student at Mt. Hope High School, built a science project "Friction vs. Time," which looked at types of road surfaces which create the friction for safe travel. Federico used different grades of sandpaper to represent different types of road surfaces, and tried them both dry and wet.

"My father and I built a four-lane track," he said, with tracks lined with 60 grit sandpaper, then 100 grit paper, 150 grit paper, and 220 grit paper. I used the same matchbox car on each lane. He ran the car down each track five times using dry sandpaper and then repeated it after wetting down the sandpaper.

"The car traveled slower when the sandpaper's grade became coarser," he said, also finding that a wet surface slowed the car more than a dry surface, but also made the cars slide a bit.

Federico said that Mark Felag of RIDOT Materials was very helpful with the project, providing ideas, an interview, and samples of road surfaces that he used to demonstrate while his project was being judged. "I think the road samples were a big hit with the judges" Federico said. "Thanks to the Department of Transportation and especially Mr. Felag, I won a Second Grant Award in the school science fair."

NASTO 2002



NASTO OFFICIALS: The Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO) held its annual meeting and conference in April in Newport. Above, RIDOT Director William D. Ankner, host; with left to right, William H. Boardman, New York DOT Director and outgoing NASTO President; Carol Murray, New Hampshire DOT Director and incoming NASTO President; and John Melrose, Maine DOT Director and NASTO Vice President. Below, attendees enjoy the Keynote Luncheon in the Atrium of the Newport Marriott.



W RIDOT once again met the challenge this spring for Project Undercover. The group collected 823 articles of clothing and \$348 for children. The individuals above gave their time and efforts to run the campaign. Left to right, Ann Marie Annunziata, Elaine Bowie, Trish Halliday, Jo Taylor-Prata, MaryLee Newman, Debbie Cameron. Cammie Corrente, Sandee Nadeau, and Jim Caroselli also helped in the effort.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Michael Dukakis, Vice-Chairman of the Amtrak Reform Board and former Massachusetts governor delivered the Keynote Speech at the NASTO conference. Left to right at the head table are William D. Ankner, Ph.D., RIDOT Director; Brad Mallory, Pennsylvania DOT Director and President of the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO); Joseph Boardman, New York DOT Director and NASTO President; John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO; and Jack Belvedere, representing American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA).

Mark Felag is honored with 2002 URI Alumni Awards

The winners of the University of Rhode Island's (URI) 2002 alumni awards were honored at a special ceremony late this winter. Award recipients were alumni who have achieved excellence in the arts, business, community service, education, professional achievement, research, and science and technology. A \$1,000 scholarship in each recipient's name will be awarded to a student on the basis of merit and need.

Winner of the 2001 Alumni Award for Contribution to Community Service was Mark E. Felag, Chief Civil Engineer in RIDOT's Materials section, and a 1984 URI graduate (M.S. 1990). The award noted "One minute Felag is a volunteer firefighter for Narragansett Fire Co. #3, the next he is an executive board member of the Providence Engineering Society or volunteering in the Pop Warner Football League. He has served as president of both St. Casimir's Church Parish Council in Warren and the Rhode Island Society of Professional Engineers.

"He also served on the Advisory Committee for the State Employee Charitable Appeal. Felag was a leadership donor to both the College of Engineering and the Convocation Center. In 1991, he was named Young Engineer of the Year by the Rhode Island Society of Professional Engineers. Recently he has been a board member for the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island where he served on the executive committee and co-chaired the major fundraising gala. Felag, his wife, Adela, and their four children live in Warren."

Career Service awards

Career Service Awards were presented in March to those who had met the number of years of service between September 2000 and August 2001.

45 Year Awards

Mario Marcaccio-MIS

40 Year Awards

Kenneth Adamo-Materials



MARY LEE NEWMAN of Finals is honored for her 25 years of service to Rhode Island.

30 Year Awards

Serge Boudreault-
Maintenance Headquarters
Richard Cabral-
Maintenance Portsmouth
Gary Fitzgerald-
Maintenance Midstate
Patricia Halliday-
Community Affairs
Thomas Tait-Survey

25 Year Awards

John Andreozzi Jr.-
Maintenance E. Providence
Lisa Andrews-
Contract Administration
Michael Brown-Design/Traffic
Joseph Cadden-
Maintenance Headquarters
John Callahan III-Survey
Richard Dante-
Maintenance Cherry Hill
Guido Dimeo Jr-
Maintenance Scituate
Chester Duclos-
Maintenance TMC
David Goglia-
Maintenance E. Providence
Paul Gormley-Survey
James Hargrave Jr.-
Construction



GILBERT HARRIS of the Midstate Maintenance Facility, receives a 25-year award.

Gilbert Harris-
Maintenance Midstate
Joseph Hussey-
Maintenance Portsmouth
Edward Kudlacik Jr.-Materials
Ernest LeBeau-
Maintenance Midstate
Robert Letteri-Design/Traffic
Marie Marcaccio-
Maintenance Headquarters
Mario Marcoccia-
Maintenance E. Providence
William McCarthy-
Facilities Management
Raymond Medeiros-
Maintenance E. Providence
James Mullen-
Maintenance Scituate
Mary Lee Newman-Finals
Susan Olsen-
Maintenance Headquarters
David Penta-Construction
Troy Porter-
Maintenance Hope Valley
Fred Salisbury-
Maintenance Cherry Hill
David Sasso-
Transportation Support
Anita Tabellario-
Intermodal Planning
William Tormey-
Maintenance Headquarters
William Whelan-
Maintenance Gloucester
Bernard Wilson-
Maintenance Portsmouth

20 Year Awards

Paul Annarummo-
Design/Traffic
Elaine Bowie-Construction
William Calabro-Construction

Robert Cicione-Materials
Walter Cook-Finals
Paul D'Agostino-Legal
Debora D'Ambra-
Maintenance Headquarters
Anthony DeAngelis-
Construction
Albert DeCesare-Materials
Terrence Forand-Survey
John Golato-Materials
John Gorrie III-Survey
John Graham-
Maintenance Lincoln
Maureen McMahon-
Real Estate
Brenda Myette-Planning
Kenneth Montague-
Construction
Denise Robinson-Construction
Walter Robitaille-
Maintenance Cherry Hill
David St. Germain-
Maintenance Midstate
Ronald Taglianetti Jr.-
Construction
Sheila Urban-Real Estate

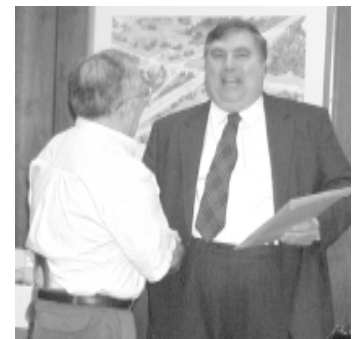
15 Year Awards

John Affleck-Legal
John Agostini-Construction
Laura Andrews-Planning
Rudolph Belasco, Jr.-Finals
Vahid Bijari-Construction
John Blais-
Maintenance Midstate
Marc Bruneau-
Maintenance Bridge
James Caroselli-Construction
Henry Chango-Finals
Paul Colombo-Survey
David Coppotelli-Real Estate
Joseph D'Ambra-
Maintenance Cherry Hill
Juvida Darosa-
Maintenance Headquarters
David DeRobbio-Materials
Emilio DiPaolo-Design
Joseph Durand-
Maintenance Portsmouth
Frank Ferraro-Construction
Scott Graham-Construction
Robert Hayes II-Construction
Joseph Henault-
Maintenance Scituate
Colleen Kerr-Real Estate
John Lamanna-
Maintenance Bridge
Colleen Lancaster-Real Estate
Marilyn Libucha-MIS
Steven Lonergan-
Maintenance Hope Valley

John Megrdrichian-
Federal Programs
Stephen Meglio -
Maintenance Bridge
Antranig Moorvartian-
Real Estate
Joseph Murphy-Internal Audit
John Oliver-Survey
Jon Pezzullo-Construction
Ralph Pizzi-Construction
Alphonse Prata-Finals
Peter Rochford-Finals
Domenic Rossi-
Maintenance Traffic
Vahe Sahakian-Construction
Antonio Santilli-Finals
Robert Shawver-
Policy/Planning
Kevin Soares-
Maintenance Cherry Hill
Judith Sousa-
Federal Programs
Manuel Sousa-Construction
Adam Stempien-
Maintenance Headquarters
Paul Vartian-
Maintenance Traffic
Thomas Warner-
Maintenance Midstate
Christos Xenophontos-Design

10 Year Awards

Bruce Cadden-Real Estate
Vanessa Crum-Legal
Ronald Hoyt-
Maintenance Headquarters
George Ley-Construction
Chester Medeiros Sr.-
Maintenance Hope Valley
Despina Metakos-Design
Sheila Metts-Policy/Planning
Rahmat Noorparvar-Design
Ayo Osimboni-Design
Paul Petsching-Design
Luanne Powers-Design
Michael Penn-Design
Steven Pristawa-Design



Robert Ciccone of Materials sings his thanks for a 20 years award.

GOHS Click It or Ticket

(Continued from Page 1)

cause of death for African-American children through age 14. Crashes are the second leading cause of death for African-Americans aged 15-24.

Of the 280 passenger vehicle occupants killed on Rhode Island's roadways between 1996-2000, 223 (80%) were not wearing safety belts. In 2000, Rhode Island ranked 48 among the 50 states for safety belt use in fatal crashes. On average, at least one Rhode Island family per week is told that they have lost a loved one in a car crash. In 2000, a total of 58 people in Rhode Island were killed as car crash occupants. These included three young children, and seven teenagers ages 16-18, none of whom was using a safety belt or child safety seat.

These statistics are compelling, and that is why the Governor's Office on Highway Safety (GOHS) is conducting a campaign in partnership with federal and state officials, business, and police officers, to promote seatbelt use. Please help in this effort by spreading the word about seatbelt safety. No matter what city or town you live in, it's a great time to help others understand why everyone should be properly belted for every trip.

Tips for Helping:

- Make buckling up a priority and kids will see its importance.
- Become familiar with the belt laws for children and adults. Call GOHS at 222-3024 for copies.
- Promote the idea that we can save lives with the simple choice to buckle up.
- Both automobile and health insurance costs are greatly affected by crash deaths and injuries. By pointing out this fact, you will be letting others know that we all have a vested interest in seat belt use.

Make seat belt use become a habit for you and your families. Remember, here is an opportunity to take control to greatly reduce the chance of death or injury. No one needs to become a statistic.



A CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY EVENT was held for members of Rhode Island's Cambodian community in late March,, sponsored by RIDOT's Governor's Office on Highway Safety. Seen here with members of the community are State Trooper Peter Chabot and Acting Chief GOHS Coordinator William Degan. The event focused on the need to wear safety belts as well as the need to use proper child restraints in motor vehicles.



A CHILD SAFETY SEAT is being installed in a SUV by a State Police Officer at a Downtown Providence Press Conference to Kick-off National Child Safety Week.

Engineering Society Annual Meeting

The Providence Engineering Society's (PES) 2002 Annual Meeting, election and installation of officers and trustees will be held Thursday, June 20, at Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln, with cocktails at 6 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m.

James R. Capaldi, P.E., RIDOT Chief Engineer, will be the program speaker. His topic will be "Freight Rail Improvement Project Experiences." Tickets are \$30. Call the Providence Engineering Society at 434-2332 for reservations by June 14.

Saunders honored as Big Brother 2001

Joseph Saunders, of RIDOT Materials, was chosen as the Big Brother of the Year for 2001 by the Big Brothers of Rhode Island, Inc. The Big Brothers of Rhode Island Newsletter reported, "For the past eleven years, Joe has served as a Big Brother and shared a close friendship with four Little Brothers....Joe has been an excellent role model to his Little Brothers. In addition, he has assisted with the fundraising events, Big Brother recruitment, and has helped to maintain the grounds for our new building pro-bono. He is an outstanding individual."

Valentine's basket winner



Marjorie Ross, seen left, a Motor Equipment Operator at the Hope Valley facility, Maintenance Division, was the winner of the W'RIDOT Valentine Basket raffle. Ross usually spends the day operating plow and dump trucks, and taking care of maintenance equipment.

The Valentine's Sweetheart Basket (seen right) was a real treat. W'RIDOT thanks everyone who took part in the raffle.



• Asian Longhorn Beetles

(Continued from Page 1)

What to look for:

1. Adult beetles are 3/4 to 1-1/4 inches long, with jet black body and mottled white spots. The long antennae are 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 times the body length with black and white bands on each segment. The feet have a bluish tinge.
2. Oval or round pits in the bark. These niches are chewed out by the female beetle. One egg is deposited in a niche.
3. Oozing sap. Sap may flow from egg niches, especially maples, as the larvae feed inside the tree.
4. Accumulation of coarse sawdust around the base of trees, where branches meet the main stem, and where branches meet other branches. Sawdust is created by the beetle larvae as they bore into the tree and branches.



Currently, the only effective means to eliminate ALB is to remove infested trees and destroy them. To prevent further spread of the insect, quarantines are established to avoid transporting infested trees and branches from the area. Early detection and rapid treatment response are crucial to successful eradication of the beetle.

General Information: There is probably one generation of ALB per year. Adult beetles are usually present from May to October. Adults stay on the trees from which they emerged or disperse short distances to a new host to feed and reproduce. Each female is capable of laying 30 to 70 eggs. The eggs hatch in 10-15 days and the larvae tunnel under the bark and into the wood. The adults emerge by boring a tunnel in the wood and creating a round exit hole in the tree. For more information, visit these U.S. Department of Agriculture web sites:

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/alb>

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/alb/alb.html>

William J. Montanaro

William J. Montanaro, 77, of Smithfield, died in April at North Bay Manor. He worked in the Division of Highway Planning of the Transportation Department for 30 years, retiring in 1986. An Army veteran of World War II, he served in the infantry in Italy. He leaves his wife Ann (Smaldone) Montanaro, and two brothers, Salvatore and Paul Montanaro, both of North Providence.

James F. Holmes

James F. Holmes, Jr., 64, of Rhode Island Avenue, a retired draftsman engineer, died Wednesday, February 20, at Rhode Island Hospital.

A lifelong resident of Pawtucket, he was a son of the late James F. Holmes Sr. and Gladys P. (Krieger) Holmes.

He was a draftsman engineer for RIDOT for 40 years, most recently in the Intermodal Planning section, before he retired last year.



He was a graduate of Tolman High School and Providence College. He was a member of Little People of America.

He leaves a brother, Frederick F. Holmes of Lincoln; two sisters, Marilyn A. Spaziano of Pawtucket, and Cheryl M. Horne of Richmond; and four nieces and

three nephews.

The funeral was held with a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Joseph Church, Pawtucket. Burial was in Mount St. Mary Cemetery.

Jim Holmes - the definition of a hero

By Brenda Myette

How do you define hero?

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines hero as:

"endowed with great courage or ability; the central figure in an event or period; an illustrious warrior; a man admired for his achievements and qualities"

A hero performs the mundane activities of everyday living in an heroic way. A hero never draws attention to himself. A hero sets an example by his actions, not his words. A hero is undaunted by obstacles. A hero faces setbacks with quiet resolve. A hero is always ready to get on with life and makes the adjustments necessary to be successful. A hero is unaware he is a hero and most people are unaware they are in

the presence of a hero until the hero is no longer present.

Jim Holmes was a hero in every way. His undaunted spirit will always be remembered. His ever-present smile and quiet unassuming demeanor belied his strength of character and loyalty as a friend and co-worker. He was admired for his independence. His ability to conquer what others would consider insurmountable barriers was a lesson to all. His unflappable courage as each day continued to present new challenges gave new meaning to patience.

Jim Holmes loved life and worked harder at living than anyone I'll ever know. His passing through our lives was for us an unforgettable experience and he will forever be remembered for the example he provided as one of life's true heroes.

Vincent N. DiIorio

Vincent N. DiIorio, 45, of Rowley Street, Providence, a former RIDOT Maintenance supervisor, died April 11 at home.

He was the husband of Veronica "Tina" (Johnson) Pelino. Born in Providence, a son of Paula E. (Minard) DiIorio of Providence and the late Vincent DiIorio, he had lived in Providence for 12 years, previously living in North Providence.

He was a department supervisor at RIDOT for 13 years, until 2000. He was a former volunteer for the North Providence Fire Department.

Besides his wife and mother, he leaves two sons, Anthony and Michael DiIorio, both of Providence; five stepdaughters, Paula Butmarc of Johnston, and Brenda and Lisa Pelino, Tina Mastroianni and Nancy Houran, all of Providence; a stepson, Eric Pelino of Ashland, N.H.; a brother, David DiIorio of North Providence; and a grandson, and 12 step-grandchildren.

The funeral was held with a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Thomas Church, Providence, and burial in Highland Memorial Park, Johnston.

Family

A baby boy for Bob and Cheryl Smith

Robert Paul Smith, seen right, was born February 7 at 6:48 a.m., and weighed in at 7 lbs., 9 oz., and 21 inches long. Robert is the second child for Bob Smith, of Highway Engineering, and his wife, the former Cheryl Gavek, who worked at RIDOT EEO. The Smiths also have a daughter Jessica, 9.



Baby girl for GOHS's Jim Barden

Erin Jaqueline Barden was born on January 17, weighing 8 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long. She joins her three-year old sister Megan and is the daughter of Jim Barden of the RIDOT Governor's Office on Highway Safety and his wife Christine.



Last chance for golf tournament

The final annual RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, August 19, at Triggs Golf Course in Providence, beginning at 9 am., with a shotgun and scramble format. According to Despina Metakos, "This will be the biggest and best golf tournament we ever had!"

Registration is \$150 per person and includes an embroidered Harvard Square waterproof pullover wind jacket, as well as "Hole in One" and "Closest to the Pin" contests on all par threes, long drive contests, and prizes for first, second, and third place.

Every hole will feature a surprise gift. The Tournament will be followed by a huge raffle and a silent auction. Registration is limited to the first 160 paid participants. For more information and a registration form, call Despina Metakos at 222-2694 ext. 4205.



Brenda Myette's granddaughter, Kayla Catherine Roche, 22 months old, is seen here fresh from the tub.

Musician/singer releases 8th album

RIDOT surveyor Philip V. D'Ercole is known better as Phil Vincent in Germany, Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands, where his albums are most popular. He has just released his eighth album, "Slow Burn," which came out in April.



D'Ercole, or Vincent, plays all the instruments and sings all the vocals on his albums, as well as writing, producing, mixing and arranging them. He is also singing on a tribute album for the victims of September 11, which includes artists from all over the world.

Planner weekdays-preacher weekends

Michael Brown, a planner in RIDOT's Intermodal Transportation Planning Section, was the focus of a feature story in a February "Neighbors - A Journal Dedicated to Life in Cumberland and Lincoln." It wasn't his skills at RIDOT that were featured, it was the calling he follows when he's not at RIDOT, serving as pastor for the Divine Harvest Church of God in Christ.

The church took over the former St. Aidan's Roman Catholic Church building on Diamond Hill Road in Cumberland, which had stood vacant for years. The site is the third location for the Divine Harvest Church, which hopes to eventually buy the building.

In the article, Brown noted the warm reception Divine Harvest received from St. Aidan's parishioners, and from the community. Divine Harvest provides worship service at three locations, Sunday School, youth programs, lessons on preaching, bible study and more. There are also services for the elderly, the homeless and the hungry.

Brown graduated from the John Knox Bible Institute in Philadelphia and was ordained. He was originally assigned to the Keyes Memorial Church in Newport, and met his wife, Frances, there.



RIDOT Supermen

We don't have nominees with every edition, but this spring two names came forward for special attention:

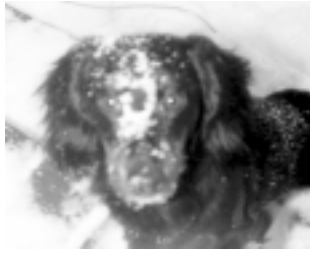
First is Dan DiBiasio. Dan was the Coordinator for NASTO 2002. In late February Dan was hoping to have people attend a conference in Newport in mid-April. With extraordinary effort and good powers of persuasion, he worked ridiculous hours and managed to gain the cooperation of everyone necessary to make the conference a huge success. On April 14 through 16, 432 people attended the conference.

Second is Wayne Gablinske. On March 26, Wayne apprehended a purse snatcher in front of the Providence Place Mall. Wayne's "Secret Admirers" in Construction gave him an "Award for Bravery." We agree!

Pet Corner



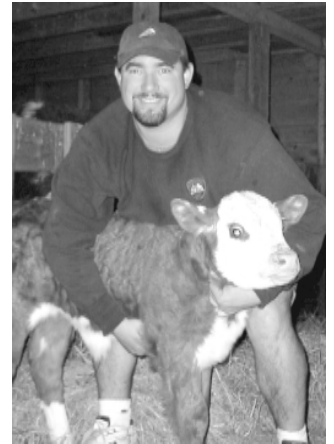
BETH CERRONI'S TWO BABIES, left. She says "The Boxer's name is Tyson (how original) and the other dog I got from the pound, her name is Samantha. She is the sweetest most wonderful dog anyone could ask for."



THAT'S JUST ABOUT ALL the snow we got last winter on "Heidi", Kate Wilson's dog, seen here in February.



DUSTY: John Gomes Miniature Pinscher is, "curious, suspicious of strangers, vigorous, curious, inquisitive, funny, fearless, curious, energetic, and curious, in short, dynamite in a small package."



ANDREW PECKHAM AND "SOCKS." This is Socks, born April 14. Andrew says, "I took this picture Sunday, April 21. His name is Socks because we have never had a calf born with four white feet and we have been having baby cows since 1977."



UNLIKELY FRIENDS? Left to right: Coco Splash, Amanda, and Chuck belong to Anita Marshall. They are, "very clever and sometimes get into mischief. They have escaped a few times into other people's yards," she notes.



LAP DOG? At left, Patti D'Ambra's Sweet Pea, who she describes as a, "biscuit-monger, minuscule lap dog." She's a Yellow Labrador Retriever, "whose grandmother was Sheleen Clarke." Patti adds Sweet Pea turned 5 on Easter Sunday.



SERIOUS ABOUT DOGS, right. Nikki Thomson has two puppies, named Smith & Wesson. They're seen here totally worn out. She says, "Smith is the browner one, Wesson is the blacker one."



XENA, THE DOG WITH DUPLICATING EARS, left. Actually, it's Malcolm Brownell with his puppy Xena, and some computer tricks. Malcolm says, "We just got this pooch less than a year ago but my wife thinks there's already some resemblance? Do I look funny with ears or does Xena look funny with a moustache?"



John White has two cats, left. On the left is Macavity, and on the right is Mistoffelees. John says, "They are brothers and both are named after characters from the musical CATS. As you can tell from the picture they are also Patriots fans."

Transportation Digest

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OJT Awards Breakfast serves up 65 Awards

By Dana Alexander Nolfé

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation's (RIDOT) Office of Civil Rights and Service Employment Redevelopment (SER) Jobs For Progress, Inc. hosted its 5th annual RIDOT On the Job Training (OJT) Breakfast Awards Ceremony on April 2.

Held at the Providence Marriott, the ceremony celebrated the exemplary efforts of the construction industry in supporting the RIDOT OJT program. It also recognized the accomplishments of RIDOT trainees.

Hosted by O.J. Silas, RIDOT OJT Administrator, External Office of Civil Rights, 65 awards were handed out.

Dorothy E. McDonough and Maria Fonseca, both from SER Jobs For Progress, assisted in the presentation of awards, certificates, and bright pink and green hard hats. Award categories included Trainee Certificates of Completion, a Personal Achievement Award, and Contractor of the Year.



Team wins two awards for Ashton Viaduct

Congratulations to RIDOT Bridge Engineering and the individuals seen above for winning two design awards for the Ashton Viaduct. They are the 2001 Design Award for Excellence in Architectural and Engineering Design for Best Rehabilitated Bridge, seen at right, from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, as well as the American Concrete Institute's Heavy Construction award, part of the 20th Annual New England Concrete Awards. The team, above, includes, left to right, Walter Burns of Construction; Mark Greenleaf the Maguire Group, Inc.; Jose Lima of Research and Technology; Bob Fura of Bridge Engineering; Bruce Santa Anna of Construction; Kazem Farhoumand of Bridge Engineering; Jim Caroselli of Construction, Richard Nolan of Construction; and Hatham Aywad of Materials.

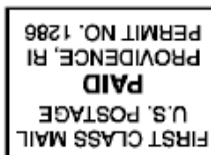


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